



From: Saturday, 18 April 2026  
To: Sunday, 14 June 2026

Remarks: \*Work numbers correspond to those in the exhibition catalogue.  
\*The exhibits may be changed due to various reasons without notice.  
\*The order of exhibits in this list do not necessarily correspond to the order of exhibition.

### Prologue

## Brothers of Strength and Wisdom

This is the tale of Hideyoshi and his younger brother Hidenaga, two siblings who shook Japan at the end of the 16th century. Though born of the same mother, some accounts say they were sired by different fathers. A lot is unclear about their earlier lives, such as whether Hidenaga was born three or four years after his big brother. Hideyoshi served under Oda Nobunaga and made a name for himself with his keen intelligence and fervor, with Hidenaga also joining Nobunaga's forces at his brother's invitation. When Hideyoshi assumed the reins of power, Hidenaga supported him as the leading daimyo of the Toyotomi clan, serving as military general and commander in numerous battles. According to the missionary Luís Fróis, Hideyoshi wanted to entrust the running of Japan to Hidenaga after unifying the country under his control. However, Hidenaga was increasingly stricken by illness and eventually passed away before his elder brother. After his death, he was greatly missed as a compassionate, virtuous man who had wielded both strength and wisdom to great effect.

No. 7 **Important Cultural Property**  
Portrait of Toyotomi Hideyoshi  
Inscription by Nanka Genkō  
Momoyama-Edo period, 17th century  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

### Chapter 1

## Days of Battle After Battle

Hideyoshi's first verified appearance in the annals of history was as a member of the military force that Nobunaga dispatched in 1574 to quell the Ise-Nagashima *ikkō-ikkō* Buddhist peasant uprising. Hideyoshi then marched into the Chugoku region to defeat the Mōri clan, who had rebelled against Nobunaga, with the two brothers fighting battle after battle across Japan. Hidenaga became castellan of Takeda Castle following its capture during the brothers' campaign in Tajima Province, with Hidenaga then ruling over Tajima. Next was Harima Province, where the brothers took nearly two years to capture Miki Castle and conquer the province. They also managed to take Tottori Castle in Inaba Province, with Hidenaga said to have played a particularly prominent role there.

The brothers subsequently marched on Bizen and Bitchu, but an event then occurred that would mark a major turning point in their lives: the Honnō-ji Incident. When Hideyoshi learned about the incident, he rushed his troops from Bitchu Takamatsu Castle to Kyoto to join the Oda forces that would go on to defeat Akechi Mitsuhide's army at the Battle of Yamazaki. Hideyoshi immediately took charge of postwar proceedings. After first acquiring Yamashiro Province and other lands at the Kiyosu Conference, he then held a Buddhist funeral for Nobunaga and put himself forward to be Nobunaga's successor. Thereafter, he strengthened his claim by defeating his old foe Shibata Katsuike at the Battle of Shizugatake. Hidenaga also fought under his brother at the Battle of Yamazaki and was later appointed to guard over Nobunaga's funeral. Hidenaga also served as a frontline commander at the Battle of Shizugatake, where he led his forces to victory while maintaining close lines of communication with his brother. In this way, Hideyoshi began his journey to power, with Hidenaga supporting him overtly and covertly every step of the way.

### Chapter 2

## Unifying the Country

In 1583, from his base at Osaka Castle, Hideyoshi launched his war to unite Japan's daimyo under his rule. The first major challenge came at the Battle of Komaki and Nagakute the following year. Following a fierce struggle, Hideyoshi succeeded in making Oda Nobukatsu and Tokugawa Ieyasu his vassals, with the two warlords then welcomed at Osaka Castle. Ieyasu stayed at Hidenaga's residence during this time, with the two brothers extending Ieyasu a warm welcome.

From 1585 onwards, Hideyoshi turned his attention to subduing western Japan. He led the assault on Kii Province himself, with Hidenaga and his nephew Hidetsugu serving as his second-in-commands. With Hideyoshi falling ill, Hidenaga then took over the reins to lead the Kiyushū campaign to subdue Shikoku. Next up was Kyushu, where Hidenaga acted as a go-between with the Shimazu clan while building up a huge military force on the Toyotomi side. The Shimazu army was eventually overpowered, with Hidenaga entrusted with settling matters after the war. Finally, Hideyoshi moved to subjugate the eastern provinces. After conquering Odawara and Oshu, he became Japan's supreme ruler at last.

On the seventh month of 1585, while fighting was still underway, Hideyoshi was appointed *kampaku* (senior regent to the Emperor). This was the year he began using the surname Toyotomi. He also built Jurakudai Castle in Kyoto and came to wield tremendous influence over the imperial court and the court nobles. Members of Hideyoshi's family and key daimyo allies were given official positions, with Hidenaga ending up as *dainagon* (senior counselor). During that time, Hidenaga was lord of the three provinces of Kii, Izumi and Yamato, but he mainly ruled out of Koriyama Castle in Yamato and became known as the "Yamato Dainagon."

No. 72 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 13th day of the 2nd month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 73 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Tōshirō (Kobayakawa Hidekane)  
Dated the 17th day of the 3rd month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 74 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 17th day of the 3rd month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 75 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 25th day of the 3rd month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs

No. 76 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 14th day of the 4th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 77 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage) and Kikkawa Jibu-no-shō (Kikkawa Motonaga)  
Dated the 21st day of the 7th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 78 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hideyoshi (Toyotomi Hideyoshi) to Ankokuji Temple  
Dated the 21st day of the 7th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 79 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hidenaga (Toyotomi Hidenaga) to Ankokuji Temple  
Dated the 6th day of the leap 7th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs

No. 80 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hidenaga (Toyotomi Hidenaga) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 6th day of the leap 7th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 81 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hidenaga (Toyotomi Hidenaga) to Kobayakawa Takakage  
Agency for Cultural Affairs  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 82 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hidenaga (Toyotomi Hidenaga) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 14th day of the 8th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs

No. 83 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter from Hashiba Hidenaga (Toyotomi Hidenaga) to Kobayakawa Saemon-no-suke (Kobayakawa Takakage)  
Dated the 24th day of the 9th month, 1585  
Agency for Cultural Affairs

No. 92 **National Treasure**  
Draft of a Letter from Toyotomi Hideyoshi to Shimazu Shuri-no-Daifu (Shimazu Yoshihisa)  
Dated the 9th day of the 5th month, 1587  
Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 93 **National Treasure**  
Red-sealed Letter from Toyotomi Hideyoshi to Shimazu Hyōgo-no-kami (Shimazu Yoshihiro)  
Dated the 26th day of the 5th month, 1587  
Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 120 **Important Cultural Property**  
Letter in *Kana* Script from Toyotomi Hideyoshi to Gosa Dated the 13th day of the 4th month, 1590  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto  
\*On view from 27 May to 18 June 2026

No. 121 **Important Art Object**  
Letter from Toyotomi Hideyoshi to Ochacha Momoyama period, 16th century  
The Gotoh Museum, Tokyo  
\*On view from 18 April to 6 May 2026

### Chapter 3

## Entering Yamato

After subduing Kii Province in the third and fourth months of 1585, Hidenaga was granted control over Izumi and Kii. He then led the campaign in Shikoku from the sixth month and was subsequently awarded Yamato Province as a reward for his endeavors. Temples and shrines had traditionally wielded considerable power in Yamato, with the province previously ruled over by Tsutsui Sadatsugu, a feudal lord with deep ties to these religious authorities. This was the situation facing Hidenaga when he entered Yamato to establish direct control by the Toyotomi clan.

Hidenaga actually arrived in Yamato in the ninth month of 1585, with the *Tamon-in Nikki (The Tamon-in Temple Diary)* recounting how the Toyotomi brothers led a force of 5,000 troops into Koriyama, the seat of feudal power in Yamato. Thereafter, Hidenaga set about building up and improving Koriyama Castle using monks from Hōryūji Temple alongside laborers, carts and other materials requisitioned from Nara. Hidenaga also revitalized the castle town and turned it into thriving business hub. To achieve this, he banned commerce in Nara while encouraging it in Koriyama, with merchants from other towns then flocking to Koriyama, and he also abolished guilds that had existed since medieval times. Before long, people from similar trades and industries became grouped together in 13 districts, with these districts forming a self-governing community. The urban infrastructure that developed during this time survived through the Edo period down to the present day.

Hidenaga also gathered many brilliant retainers around him and he was supported in governance and military matters by Yokohama Ichian, Kobori Masatsugu and Tōdō Takatora, all men from Omi Province, as well as Kuwayama Shigeru and others. It is likely these men established residences within Koriyama Castle and the castle town, with records revealing how they hosted tea ceremonies and socialized with powerful townsfolk from Nara and the local area.

No. 125 **Important Art Object**  
Hanging Lantern  
Donated by Miya (Hidenaga's daughter)  
1588  
Hasedera Temple, Nara

No. 22 **Important Cultural Property**  
Kobayakawa Takakage  
Inscription by Gyokuchū Sōshū  
Inscription dated 1594  
Beisanji Temple, Hiroshima  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 138 **Important Cultural Property**  
*Tantō* Short Sword,  
Named "Ichian Masamune", unsigned, attributed to Masamune  
Previously owned by Yokohama Ichian, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and others  
Kamakura period, 14th century  
The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi

No. 146 **Important Art Object**  
*Tantō* Short Sword,  
Named "Uwabe Taima" ("Kuwayama Taima"), unsigned, attributed to Taima  
Previously owned by Kuwayama Motoharu  
Kamakura period, 13th century  
Nagoya Touken World, Aichi

No. 149 **Important Cultural Property**  
Portrait of Tōdō Takatora  
Edo period, 17th century  
Shitenōji Temple, Mie  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

### Chapter 4

## A Time of Power and Beauty

The Shokuhō period was a time when various powers throughout Japan were united under two towering figures, namely Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi. These powerful men also patronized and cultivated the arts and performing arts, with culture blooming under their rule.

Hideyoshi was particularly enamored with noh theater and the tea ceremony. He was such a fan of noh that he erected a noh stage while stationed at Hizen Nagoya Castle before an invasion of Korea. He sent for actors from the Konparu family and also studied noh himself, with Hideyoshi even performing to envoys from Ming China. Hidenaga was also an early exponent of noh. He staged a performance at Koriyama Castle when Mōri Terumoto visited, for example, with many of his top vassals attending too. Hideyoshi was also a devotee of the tea ceremony, so much so that he included instructions about tea in guidelines given to his nephew Hidetsugu, with Hideyoshi exhorting the younger man to treat the tea ceremony as a form of recreation and not to imitate his uncle. Hidenaga also arranged tea ceremonies when receiving military commanders to Koriyama or when dealing with the Narashū.

These occasions were enlivened by craft works and decorative objects associated with some of the era's greatest tea masters and artisans, with these also serving to enhance the status of Hideyoshi and his clan. The Konparu family was involved in the production of many outstanding noh costumes and masks, for instance, with Sen no Rikyū and Kobori Enshū (Masakazu; son of Kobori Masatsugu), two men close to Hideyoshi and Hidenaga, also creating tea utensils infused with their unique aesthetic sensibilities. Hideyoshi and his wife Kōdai-in (One) also loved furnishings decorated with maki-e, with the era's characteristic splendor on full display in these objects too.

No. 159 **Important Cultural Property**  
*Dōbuku* Coat with Paulownia Crests, Arrows and Sliding Doors  
Said to have been gifted by Toyotomi Hideyoshi  
Momoyama period, 16th century  
Kyoto National Museum  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 161 **Important Cultural Property**  
Noh Mask: *Kōomote*, with branded mark "Tenkaichi Kawachi"  
Passed down by the Konparu family  
Edo period, 17th century  
Tokyo National Museum  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 162 **Important Cultural Property**  
Noh Mask: *Shakumi*  
Passed down by the Konparu family  
Edo period, 17th century  
Tokyo National Museum  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 163 **Important Cultural Property**  
Noh Costume (*Karaori*) with Alternating Panels and Zig Zags, Chrysanthemums and Paulownia Crests  
Gifted by Toyotomi Hideyoshi  
Momoyama period, 16th century  
Mohri Museum, Yamaguchi  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 168 **Important Cultural Property**  
Noh Costume (*Nuibaku*) with Chrysanthemums, Reeds and Waterfowl  
Passed down by the Konparu family  
Momoyama period, 16th century  
Tokyo National Museum  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 171 **Important Cultural Property**  
Portrait of Kōdai-in  
Momoyama period, 16th century  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 172 **Important Cultural Property**  
*Karaori* Weave Buddhist Altar Cloth (*Uchishiki*) with Wavy Stripes and Paulownia Crests  
Donated by Kōdai-in  
Momoyama period-Edo period, 16th-17th century  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 173 **Important Cultural Property**  
*Kinran* Weave Buddhist Altar Cloth (*Uchishiki*) with Plum Arabesque and Floral Medallions  
Donated by Kōdai-in  
Momoyama period-Edo period, 16th-17th century  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 174 **Important Cultural Property**  
Large Incense Container with Peonies and Phoenixes in Carved Black Lacquer  
Donated by Kōdai-in  
Southern Song dynasty, 13th century  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 175 **Important Cultural Property**  
Book Box with Bamboo and Autumn Grasses in *Maki-e*  
Momoyama period, 16th century  
Kōdaiji Temple, Kyoto

No. 185 **Important Cultural Property**  
Chinese (*Karamono*) Tea-Leaf Jar, Named "Shōka"  
Previously owned by Ashikaga Yoshimasa (attr.), Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Toyotomi Hidetsugu, Tokugawa Ieyasu and others  
Southern Song-Yuan dynasty, 13th-14th century  
The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi

No. 192 **Important Cultural Property**  
Ko-Bizen Type Water Jar, Named "Seigai"  
Previously owned by Takeno Jōō and Tokugawa Yoshinao  
Muromachi period, 16th century  
The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi

No. 202 **Important Cultural Property**  
Chinese (*Karamono*) Square-shouldered Tea Caddy (*Katatsuki*), Named "Kitano Katsuki".  
Previously owned by Ashikaga Yoshimasa and others  
Southern Song dynasty, 12th-13th century  
Mitsui Memorial Museum, Tokyo  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 213 **Important Cultural Property**  
*Katana Ezu* (Sword Illustrations): Mōri Version  
By Hon'ami Kōtoku  
1594  
Mohri Museum, Yamaguchi  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

No. 214 **Important Art Object**  
*Katana Ezu* (Sword Illustrations)  
By Hon'ami Kōtoku  
1595  
Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of Art  
\*On view from 18 April to 17 May 2026

No. 216 **Important Cultural Property**  
*Katana* Sword, Named "Nansen Ichimoni", unsigned, attributed to Ichimonji  
Previously owned by Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Toyotomi Hideyori, Tokugawa Ieyasu and others  
Kamakura period, 13th century  
The Tokugawa Art Museum, Aichi

### Chapter 5

## The Downfall of the Toyotomi

Hidenaga fell in the latter half of 1589. He visited the healing hot springs of Arima Onsen, while doctors tried curing him and temples and shrines prayed for him, but all to no avail, with Hidenaga passing away in the first month of 1591. One theory claims he suffered from some kind of chronic illness. Hidenaga's funeral was held in Koriyama and was said to have attracted a throng of 200,000 onlookers. His successor was Hideyasu, the adopted son who had married Hidenaga's daughter just before his death. As lord of Koriyama Castle, Hidenaga became a key member of the Toyotomi clan, but he died suddenly at age 17, with his death marking the end of the Yamato Toyotomi clan.

Hidenaga's death hit Hideyoshi hard and things started to go awry thereafter. Just two months later, he lost another close confidant when he fell out with Sen no Rikyū and ordered the tea master to be punished. His beloved son Tsurumatsu also left this world four months after. As a result, Hidetsugu inherited the title of *kampaku* (senior regent) due to his status as a senior member of the Toyotomi clan.

The question of Hideyoshi's heir suddenly became a pressing matter again when his second son Hideyori was born in 1593. The matter was ultimately settled when Hidetsugu was removed from the equation following accusations of plotting a coup. After losing his trusted brother, Hideyoshi bet the future of the Toyotomi line on the infant Hideyori.

However, Hideyoshi's time with his new son would be cut short. In 1598, Hideyoshi passed away aged 62. Hideyoshi was just six years old at the time. Hideyori courageously took over the mantle of head of the Toyotomi clan, but amid rising tensions with the Tokugawa clan, he met his end at the Siege of Osaka. With his suicide, the demise of the Toyotomi clan moved inexorably closer.

No. 230 **Important Cultural Property**  
Draft of the Final Testament  
Written by Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Addressed to Ieyasu and others  
Dated the 5th day of the 8th month, 1598  
Mohri Museum, Yamaguchi  
\*On view from 19 May to 14 June 2026

### Epilogue

## The Downfall of the Toyotomi

When Ōtomo Sōrin visited Osaka Castle, Hidenaga told him, "Sen no Rikyū handles all personal matters in the Toyotomi clan, but take care of official matters, so no harm will come to you." Sōrin was deeply touched by these words, probably because they revealed how Hidenaga relied upon Rikyū to mediate between Hideyoshi at the top and people like Sōrin.

However, nobody relied more on Hidenaga than Hideyoshi himself. As a blood relative, a vassal and a comrade in arms, Hidenaga understood Hideyoshi very well. However, the two brothers were torn apart earlier than expected. Hideyoshi was always concerned about Hidenaga's ill health and he prayed for his brother's recovery. His prayers would not be answered, though.

Hideyoshi and Hidenaga: two brothers whose shared goals, trust and mutual support led them through the Sengoku period to finally unite Japan under one rule. Their bond transcends time and space to resonate strongly even with those of us living today.



This exhibition will travel to the Osaka Museum of History and Tokyo Metropolitan Edo-Tokyo Museum. The selection of works will vary by venue.